

REMARKS

By way of this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4, 13 and 15 to more completely claim the invention. Additionally, Applicants have amended the Abstract of the Disclosure to overcome the objection thereto.

For the following reasons, it is believed that the claims patentably distinguish over JP 8035552 (JP '552) and Holifield (U.S. Patent No. 6,207,050).

The inventor found that in the toroidal continuous variable transmission, a power roller bearing is the most sensitive to the intrusion of foreign substances . Therefore, high purity is required for the lubricating oil flowing among the power roller bearing.

In view of this, according to the claimed invention, at first, a seal member is provided on an outer peripheral surface of the power roller bearing. This seal member prevents an intrusion of the foreign substance into the power roller bearing at the time of stopping the rotation of the power roller. In detail, when the power roller is rotating, the lubricating oil splashes out from inside of the power roller bearing to the outside thereof due to centrifugal force. Thus in this state, the foreign substance in the lubricating oil cannot intrude into the power roller.

However, when the power roller stops rotating, the lubricating oil containing the foreign substance falls into the power roller bearing due to the lost of the centrifugal force and there is a possibility that the foreign substance may intrude into the power roller bearing. However, the seal member prevents this intrusion of the foreign substance.

Further, according to the invention, a trapping member is provided in the shaft provided at the bottom of the trunnions so as to reduce the foreign substance in the lubricating passage. According to this trapping member, although there is a foreign substance outside the lubricating

passage and also outside the power roller, such a foreign substance existing outside can be effectively prevented from intruding into the power roller bearing.

According to this double filtering structure, the purity of the lubricating oil which flows through the power roller can be effectively improved. Therefore, biting of the foreign substance in the power roller can be surely prevented.

The cited reference fails to disclose the sealing member in the power roller bearing and also fails to disclose the double filtering structure. Therefore, applicant believes that the claims patentably distinguish over cited references.

It is therefore requested that the application be passed to issue at the earliest convenience. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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